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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 10/786,487 | 02/25/2004 | Pastor Velasco JR. | 221P130US01 | 3115 |
| 23322 | 7590 | 04/07/2005 | EXAMINER THOMPSON, HUGH B | |
| IPLM GROUP, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 18455 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418 | | | ART UNIT 3634 | PAPER NUMBER |
| DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/786,487 | Applicant(s) VELASCO, PASTOR | |
| | Examiner Hugh B. Thompson II | Art Unit 3634 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6-24-04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 1, the preamble suggest that a harness is being claimed, however, the body of the claim, i.e., the text following “comprising:”, recites no harness. The applicant has failed to recite structural relationships between the connections and a harness.

With respect to claim 1, line 11, the applicant has positively recited the combination of the harness and “the connecting element indicator”, an element that does not appear to be apart of the required invention. Correction is required.

With respect to claim 14, the claim is dependent upon itself. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisk et al #5,203,829 in view of Chong et al #4,913,136. Fisk et al disclose a safety harness 10 comprised

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of shoulder/chest straps 18, 20, leg straps 64, 66, dorsal back pad 30, mating internal connections/buckles 22, 54(female), 56(male), 58, 68, 70, the male and female connections serving as coded indicators, color coding that is used to identify straps when donning the harness, D-ring connecting members 29, 46, 74, 76, which are connectable with a lanyard (commonly known to be used with hooks or carabineers as recited in column 3, line 18)/connecting device as recited in column 4, lines 11-13, and a method of using the harness as recited in column 6, lines 64-68 and column 7, lines 1-16. Fisk et al fail to disclose multiple coded indicators for connection of buckles, straps, D-rings, and lanyards, to other harness elements.

Chong et al, as recited in column 3, lines 14-20, teach the utility of a harness assembly having straps 1, 2, 4, 5, and connecting members/D-rings 3, 10, the mating connection of which can be facilitated by the use of color coding on the buckles or straps or any variation thereof. Therefore, to one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious, as a matter for design choice, to provide the harness assembly of Fisk et al with color-coding attachment indicators, as taught by Chong et al, so as to facilitate mating connection between straps, connecting devices, and D-rings, or any variation thereof, while producing no new and unexpected results.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ochs et al #3,889,668, Grilliot et al #5,136,724, Casebolt et al #6,253,874, Turvill et al #5,380,067, O'Rourke #5,433,289, and Derby #6,367,582 are cited to teach harness and connection assemblies.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hugh B. Thompson II whose telephone number is (703) 305-0102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 9 am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (703) 308-0827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Hugh B. Thompson II
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

March 31, 2005